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Department of State TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 15092 201617Z

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-02 INR-06 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 UPW-01 IO-11
AID-20 NIC-01 RSR-01 INRE-00 /107 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0177

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SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 20 CAMPAIGN ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT THIEU

1. FOLLOWING IS PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF CAMPAIGN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT THIEU ON SEPTEMBER 20. FULL TEXT WILL FOLLOW.

2. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE "OBJECTIVE" IS ALL OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. THEREFORE, THERE WOULD BE NO PEACE AFTER THE CONQUEST OF SOUTH VIETNAM. INSTEAD THE COMMUNISTS WOULD USE THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE TO MAKE WAR AGAINST OTHER COUNTRIES.

3. THERE ARE SOME NAIVE PEOPLE WHO AS THIS IS A WAR AGAINST AMERICAN COLONIALISM, BUT THE AMERICANS DID NOT COME UNTIL 1965, WHEN WE REQUESTED THEIR ASSISTANCE, BECAUSE THE COMMUNISTS WERE IN ALMOST COMPLETE CONTROL OF SOUTH VIETNAM. NOW THAT WE ARE STRONG, THE AMERICANS HAVE ALMOST COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN. AND THEY "WILL WITHDRAW COMPLETELY."

4. THERE ARE FOUR GUARANTEUES TO A JUST PEACE: (A) NO TERRITORIAL PARTITION; (B) NO COALITION GOVERNMENT; (C) NO NEUTRALITY; AND (D) NO FREEDOM OF ACTION FOR COMMUNISM AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY.

5. WHEN THE COMMUNISTS WITHDRAW FROM SOUTH VIETNAM, PEACE WILL COME. WE WILL ONLY DEFEND SOUTH VIETNAM. WE WILL NEVER INVADE NORTH VIETNAM. HANOI CAN DO WHATEVER IT LIKES AND

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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FOLLOW ANY IDEOLOGY IT WISHES. BUT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE MUST LEAVE US ALONE.

6. THE TWO SIDES SHOULD SIT KDOWN TOGETHER AND HAVE REASONABLE DISCUSSIONS. ON JULY 11, 1969, I PROPOSED FREE AND DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS, AS WELL AS AN IMMEDIATE CEASE-FIRE. I ALSO SAID I WOULD TALKS WITH "THEM" ANYTIME, ANYPLACE, ABOUT ANYTHING. I REMAIN READY TO DISCUSS A POLITICAL SOLUTION THE SOONER, THE BETTER.

7. BECAUSE NORTH VIETNAM IS EXHAUSTED BY MILITARY DEFEATS AND NATURAL CALAMITIES, PEACE WILL COME IN "A FEW YEARS." THE WAR MAY FADE AWAY. OR THE COMMUNISTS MAY LOSE HOPE OF MILITARY VICTORY AND WILL WANT TO NEGOTIATE A PEACE SETTLEMENT.

8. FINALLY, IF YOU HAVE CONFIDENCE IN ME, CAST VALID VOTES. IF YOU HAVE NO CONFIDENCE, CAST INVALID VOTES. THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO CAST INVALID BALLOTS. YOU CAN PUT AN EMPTY ENVELOPE IN THE BALLOT BOX. YOU CAN TEAR THE BALLOT. YOU CAN DEFACE THE BALLOT.

9. BECAUSE THIS IS AN ELECTION OF ONLY ONE SLATE, I HAVE POSED THE QUESTION OF CONFIDENCE OR NO-CONFIDENCE. I WANT TO REMAIN IN OFFICE WITH A RELATIVELY HIGH NUMBER OF VOTES. END SUMMARY.
BUNKER

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